The Thursday Candle

Grant
that in thee,
who art
perfect Charity,
we may find
the way that leads
to Unity, in
obedience to thy
Love and to
thy Truth - Amen

pray for unity

such as Christ
wills and
by the means
he chooses - -

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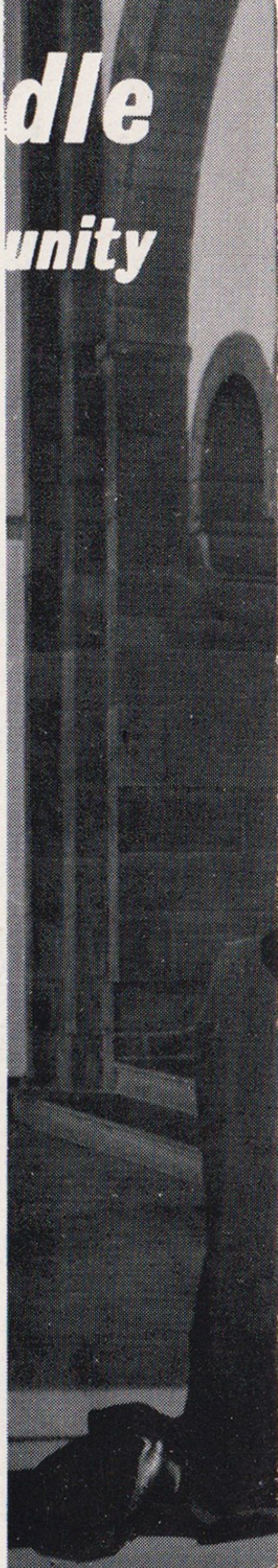
Symbol and Pledge of Prayer for unity

The Candle burns every Thursday before a representation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the one Saviour of us all, in the Chapels of religious communities belonging to the UNA SANCTA movement. This movement was founded in 1919 by Father Max Metzger, the great German apostle of christian unity and reconciliation, who was executed by the Nazis for alleged treason in 1944. The movement makes its approach to all believers in Christ on the basis of christian baptism, holding that all those duly baptised belong to the one mystical Body of Christ.

It includes, says Metzger, . . . "all Christians whether Catholic or Protestant who in using the Lord's Prayer and his own high-priestly Prayer" offered on Holy Thursday, the night of his betrayal, will pray THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE (S. John 17) and who will urge such Prayer on their fellow-christians.

A Thursday Candle was burnt first at the Abbey of Niederaltaich in Bavaria, centre of the UNA SANCTA movement. A growing number of Anglicans in every part of the world, in their parish churches, religious houses, schools and homes now do the same. Let this symbolic flame be the sign of your longing and your prayer for unity as you kindle it every Thursday week by week.

A simple prayer card to fit into Missal or prayer book is available from MIRFIELD PUBLICATIONS, House of the Resurrection, MIRFIELD, 25 for 1/6, 50 for 2/9, 100 for 5/-, all post free.



Photograph by courtesy of The Yorkshire Post